

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,425,551 to Puckett et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a core for supporting a wound sheet roll on a spindle. The core includes, *inter alia*, “a tubular body having open ends and including an annular outer surface for receiving the sheet roll,” “an annular inner surface defining a bore for receiving the spindle,” and “circumferentially spaced apart splines projecting radially inward from the annular inner surface.” A set of ribs is featured as “projecting radially inward from the annular inner surface near the one end and extending between the axial splines for axially limiting assembly of the core onto the spindle.”

The Office Action urges that Puckett et al. discloses a set of ribs (near 36) projecting radially inward from the inner surface. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

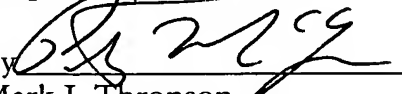
As the Office Action correctly admits, Puckett et al. discloses an “annular inner surface” 22 defining a bore for receiving the spindle. “Annular inner surface” 22 is shown in perspective in FIGS. 1 and 6. Referring to FIG. 1 and the enlarged view of FIG. 6, the set of ribs (near 36) discussed in the Office Action is seen as flush with the annular inner surface 22. The set of ribs (near 36) relied upon on the Office Action is not a set of ribs that is “projecting radially inward from the *annular inner surface* near the one end.”

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Puckett et al. Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and so are patentable over Puckett et al. for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: October <sup>25</sup>~~27~~, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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